

April 14 - 28  
Litter Sweep

April 22  
Earth Day

May 28  
Memorial Day

July 4  
Independence Day

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Is a biannual newsletter published by the Office of Beautification Programs of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups to keep them informed about litter control and prevention activities.

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Newsletter

# Litterature

Biannual Newsletter

Winter 2007

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Newsletter

## Featured Group

North Davidson High School  
Air Force Junior ROTC, NC-951  
of Davidson County

The Air Force Junior ROTC,  
NC-951 (AFJROTC) adopted  
a two-mile stretch of U.S. Hwy  
52 from SR 1499 (Enterprise  
Road) North to SR 1506 (Eler  
Road) North of Welcome.



Shaking hands: C/LtCol David Wright, Darryl Kluttz, Back row: (left to right) C/2Lt. Mitch Garmer, C/Capt. Crystal Cornine, C/Capt. Amanda Bailey, and C/LtCol. Carly Lane.

Major Charles Damratoski is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for the AFJROTC program. In 1996, he contracted with the NCDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program in order to fulfill their community service project requirement.

Asked why the Major decided to get the ROTC involved with the AAH program, he replied, "I believe it's a great way to get young adults involved in their community and in return they gain a sense of pride and ownership in keeping it clean. It also makes them more aware of the damage littering does to the environment, especially for those cadets about to get their driver license."

For the past couple of years, the AFJROTC AAH group has anywhere from 25 to 40 cadets (ages 14 to 18) participating in the quarterly cleanups. They fill an average of 60 bags annually.

After a cleanup, the group returns to the school for soft drinks.

Their two-mile stretch between Welcome and Midway on Old U.S. Hwy 52 is an extremely busy area with school, industrial park and residential traffic. It also has 12 side roads/highway on-off ramps.

The most common items picked up are fast food products, plastic bottles and beer cans. The most unusual items were car keys, two twenty dollar bills and a palm pilot.

In addition, the AFJROTC collects and recycles the school's used paper, by providing bins on campus.

The North Davidson High School AFJROTC unit received their 10-year star from the NCDOT this year. Major Damratoski says, "as long as an AFJROTC program remains at North Davidson High School, we'll be involved."

The Office of Beautification programs applaud the efforts and commitment of Major Damratoski and all the cadets and students participating in the AAH program.

Each newsletter has an outstanding Adopt-A-Highway group featured. To share your group's story, please call 1-800-331-5864 and ask for George.

## Same Address New Look

The Office of Beautification Programs Web site at [www.ncdot.org/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.org/~beautification) has a new look.

The Adopt-A-Highway Web site has been upgraded to allow better communication between the AAH applicants and the AAH Coordinators for processing new applications.

Coordinators can now quickly and efficiently retrieve information about the AAH groups they administer.

And for everyone reporting cleanups online it is much easier.

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Fall Litter Sweep Results

The 2006 Fall Litter Sweep succeeded in removing more than two million pounds of roadside litter statewide. These pounds represent 142,000 bags of litter, and does not include items too large or heavy to fit in the bags.

The Adopt-A-Highway groups and other volunteers collected 37 percent of the bags reported.

AAH Safety Tips

Before your AAH group cleanups, check out two "LITTER PICKUP IN PROGRESS" caution signs from the nearest county maintenance yard. When the group arrives at the adopted highway, bolt a sign to each of the AAH signposts. The signs will alert motorists driving in both directions to proceed with caution since the AAH litter pickup is in progress. After the cleanup, remember to remove and return the signs to the maintenance yard so another group will be able to use them.

Swat-A-Litterbug

See a litterbug? Take action. Visit [www.ncdot.org/~litterbug](http://www.ncdot.org/~litterbug) and report the offender online. Swat that litterbug by submitting the N.C. vehicle license plate, date, time, road name, city, county, and what was observed discarded improperly. In 2006, there were 8,250 letters mailed.

The quantities of bags filled by the various participants during the 2006 Fall Litter Sweep are shown below:

- 21,384 bags filled by NCDOT crews;
- 62,622 bags filled by inmates on DOC road squads and community work crews;
- 4,049 bags filled by Community Service Work Program participants;
- 53,940 bags filled by Adopt-A-Highway and Litter Sweep volunteers statewide

"Most Unusual Litter" Contest Winners

Entries in the Litter Sweep "Most Unusual Litter" contest confirmed that North Carolina is faced with a wide variety of roadside trash. The winners of the "most unusual litter" during the 2006 Fall Litter Sweep included a knife (that became evidence in a criminal case), a can of dehydrated water, and a prosthetic device. Photos can be viewed by visiting the Office of Beautification Programs Web site at [www.ncdot.org/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.org/~beautification) and clicking on the Litter Sweep link.



1st place winner  
Crime scene evidence  
Rotary Club of Southern Pines and Interact



3rd place winner  
Prosthetic Device  
Buies Creek Lions Club

Stormwater Facts

1. Does stormwater come from roads?
2. Will our government take care of stormwater pollution?

Answer:

1. Some stormwater pollutants originate on roadways, but roads cover less than 2 percent of the land in North Carolina.
2. In North Carolina, the state only manages a limited portion of area affected by stormwater pollution. We must all work to reduce the impact of these pollutants.

AAH Coordinator Profile

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator of the Year

By George Kapetanakis (GK)

**AAH Coordinator Profile**  
**Darryl Kluttz (DK)**  
**Transportation Technician III**  
**Division: 9**  
**Counties: Davidson and Rowan**  
**Location: Salisbury**  
**Years as AAH Coordinator: 7**



Darryl Kluttz Transportation Technician III came to the N.C. Department of Transportation in 1999 after leaving a position with a local engineering firm. As a TT III, Darryl is involved in new road additions, abandonment, road improvement surveys, i.e. for adding traffic lanes and outdoor advertising for the district. Darryl is also the Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator for Davidson and Rowan counties.

In his off-hours, Darryl enjoys outdoor activities, such as salt-water fishing and NASCAR racing. As a race fan, he bought a 1976 school bus to transport himself and his race fan friends to the races in Darlington (SC), Martinsville (VA) and Bristol (TN). With Rusty Wallace's retirement, Darryl looked for another driver to favor and became a Brian Vickers fan this year after the race at Talladega (AL).

A few questions and answers from our recent conversation follows:

GK: Darryl what can you tell me about the Adopt-A-Highway groups that you administer in Davidson and Rowan counties?

DK: Currently I oversee 91 groups in Davidson County and 53 groups in Rowan County.

Of these groups, there are 21 groups in Davidson County which recycle items, while 13 groups recycle in Rowan County. From January to October 2006, these volunteers removed more than 125,000 pounds of trash from 290 miles of adopted roadsides and 5,000 pounds were recycled.

GK: How do you find new AAH groups?  
DK: Normally during Litter Sweep, I'll place posters in various locations including grocery stores and the post office. I work closely with each group to ensure an understanding of the program, the roadway to be adopted and the commitment to do the cleanups. Safe cleanups are very important. I make sure that each group views a copy of the AAH safety video prior to performing their first roadside litter pickup.

GK: What has been the most unusual litter found in your area?  
DK: I recall someone reporting a commode. That's pretty unusual.

The NCDOT and the Office of Beautification Programs congratulate you Darryl on your

years of dedicated service to the NCDOT, the AAH program and the AAH groups. We also thank all the Adopt-A-Highway groups in Davidson and Rowan counties for keeping their part of North Carolina roadsides clean, green and safe for everyone to enjoy.

"Litter Contest" link

The 8th Annual North Carolina Litter Prevention Award Competition ends March 30, 2007. It is sponsored by the NCDOT, Office of the Governor, North Carolina Keep America Beautiful and the North Carolina Beverage Association.

There are three categories with six winners. The categories include Government Agency, Schools/Youth Groups and Non-Profit Organizations. The three first place winners, in each category win \$1,000. The three second place winners win \$500.

If you are not able to enter this year, complete your project during 2007 and submit your entry for the contest early in 2008.

View the Litter Prevention Awards Contest found within the "Litter Contest" link.

For more information, visit: [www.ncdot.org/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.org/~beautification)

